

Amendment to Claims: This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions. Please add new claims 23-35 and amend claims 3-7, 10, 13, and 18-20 as shown below in the claim listing.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A film-forming binder polymer for a coating composition wherein the polymer is modified by the presence of bonded moieties obtainable from plant gum.
2. (Original) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the plant gum is obtainable from plant fibre.
3. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [or Claim 2] wherein the plant gum is obtainable from corn fibre.
4. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding Claims] wherein the bonded moieties comprise proteo-xylans.
5. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding Claims] wherein the bonded moieties comprise furanose.
6. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding Claims] wherein the bonded moieties are chemically attached to the binder polymer.
7. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding Claims] wherein the plant gum comprises a mixture of polysaccharide and protein.
8. (Original) A binder polymer as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the bonded moieties are derived by adding plant gum to the polymerisation reaction mixture from which the binder polymer is formed.
9. (Original) A binder polymer as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the plant gum is corn fibre gum.
10. (Currently Amended) A binder polymer according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims] wherein the polymer is an aqueous dispersion of particles.

11. (Original) A process for modifying film-forming binder polymers which are binder polymers for coating compositions wherein plant gum is added to the polymerisation reaction which produces the binder polymer.
12. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the plant gum is corn fibre gum.
13. (Currently Amended) A coating composition wherein the composition [contain] comprises a modified binder polymer of Claim 1 [as claimed in any one of the preceding claims].
14. (Original) A coating composition according to Claim 13 wherein the composition further contains at least one component selected from the group consisting of pigments, fillers, extenders, rheological modifiers, dispersants, antifoams, flow aids, crosslinkers and biocides.
15. (Original) A coating composition according to claim 14 wherein the selected component is pigment.
16. (Original) A coating composition according to Claim 15 wherein the pigment is titanium dioxide.
17. (Original) A coating composition according to Claim 16 wherein the pigment is rutile.
18. (Currently Amended) A coating composition according to [any one of Claims] Claim 14 [to 17 having] comprising a PVC(TiO₂) of from 5 to 35%.
19. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the opacity of coating compositions wherein the method comprises employing a modified binder polymer according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 10] as a binder in a coating composition.
20. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the opacity of coating compositions comprising particulate non-film forming materials wherein the method comprises

employing a modified binder polymer according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 10] as a binder.

21. (Original) A method for improving the opacity of coating compositions according to Claim 20 wherein the particulate non-film forming material is titanium dioxide.
22. (Original) A method for improving the opacity of coating compositions according to Claim 20 wherein the particulate non-film forming material is rutile.
23. (New) A binder polymer according to Claim 3, wherein the corn fiber gum is present as bonded moieties at a level in the range from 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the total binder polymer.
24. (New) A binder polymer according to Claim 2 wherein the plant gum is obtainable from corn fibre or a mixture of polysaccharide and protein and wherein the bonded moieties comprise those selected from bonded moieties comprising proteo-xylans or bonded moieties comprising furanose.
25. (New) A binder polymer according to Claim 23 wherein the bonded moieties are chemically attached to the binder polymer.
26. (New) A binder polymer as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the bonded moieties are derived by adding plant gum to the polymerisation reaction mixture from which the binder polymer is formed.
27. (New) A binder polymer according to Claim 23 wherein the polymer is an aqueous dispersion of particles.
28. (New) A coating composition wherein the composition comprises a modified binder polymer of Claim 23.
29. (New) A coating composition according to Claim 27 wherein the composition further contains at least one component selected from the group consisting of pigments, fillers,

extenders, rheological modifiers, dispersants, antifoams, flow aids, crosslinkers and biocides.

30. (New) A coating composition according to Claim 28 having a PVC(TiO₂) of from 5 to 35%.

31. (New) A method for improving the opacity of coating compositions wherein the method comprises employing a modified binder polymer according to Claim 23 as a binder in a coating composition.

32. (New) Coating composition of Claim 13 selected from architectural coating compositions, paints, varnishes or woodstains.

33. (New) A coating composition, comprising:

- a) solution copolymer or dispersion copolymer of mono-ethylenically unsaturated monomers selected from acrylics, vinyls, and styrenics having bonded moieties obtainable from plant gum;
- b) at least one component selected from the group consisting of pigments, fillers, extenders, rheological modifiers, dispersants, antifoams, flow aids, crosslinkers and biocides; and
- c) carrier liquid.

34. (New) Coating composition of Claim 33 which includes solution copolymer or dispersion copolymer of mono-ethylenically unsaturated monomers selected from acrylics, vinyls, and styrenics.

35. (New) Coating composition of Claim 33 which is essentially free of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, and benzyl alcohol and trimethylpentane diol isobutyrate as coalescing solvents.